

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # \_\_\_\_\_

APP # 700185

## **1. Project Description**

### **A. Statement of GO Activity**

The Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTNA) is 39.5 square miles of prime natural habitat set aside for the desert tortoise, the official California State Reptile. The Mojave population of the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) is listed as threatened, both in the state of California and federally. Within the designated boundary of this preserve lies of prime habitat that historically supported one of the highest tortoise population densities known. The preserve boasts other flora and fauna representative of the intricate Mojave Desert ecosystem, including the threatened Mohave ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus mohavensis*). In 1980, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior, recognized the significance of the DTNA by designating it an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" and as a "Research Natural Area". The DTNA lies in the northwestern Mojave Desert on the western edge of the Rand Mountains in eastern Kern County. It is 5.5 miles northeast of California City, a hot spot for OHV recreation.

The majority of the perimeter of the DTNA was fenced in the 1970s with the cooperation of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (Committee) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). At the time of fencing, signs were installed to notify the public that the DTNA, although on land managed by the BLM, was closed to all vehicle use, livestock grazing, bicycle use, and reptile collecting. Over the years the signs have become weathered due to the climatic extremes in the Mojave Desert. The Committee seeks funding to purchase and replace old, damaged, or vandalized signs.

Since the 1970's new fencing has been installed as additional parcels of land were acquired or donated and then added to the existing DTNA. OHV recreationists heavily used one of these parcels locally known as Camp "C", as a site for camping and riding. At the time of acquisition and fencing, a large network of roads covered the area. The roads still exist inside the fence line and are visible to riders from a distance, although the fence line itself may be difficult to detect. Despite the Committee's best efforts, including signing and flagging, riders are still accidentally crashing into the fence. A minimum of five accidental fence strikes occurred in 2008 although many more likely occurred but were undetected. The Committee seeks funding to purchase additional signs to protect riders from fence collisions in the area of Camp "C".

The Committee seeks additional funding to purchase highway signs to direct visitors to the DTNA. Existing signs marking critical turns to California City on Highway 58 are faded beyond recognition or reading. Several comments left on the BLM site register last year expressed frustration regarding the difficulty of find the DTNA based on available signage. Providing adequate direction to the DTNA protects drivers and riders. Well-marked intersections and turns are safer and less distracting to drivers and riders. Efforts to maintain and improve the DTNA are beneficial to all of our visitors, almost 50% of whom arrived on OHVs.

The Committee also seeks funds to develop, purchase and install two weather resistant information panels at the DTNA. These panels will include information on proper behaviors when encountering a desert tortoise, the dangers of releasing pets into the wild, and the risks of removing a wild desert tortoise from its natural habitat.

### **B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation**

The installation of signs along the boundary signs at the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTNA) will prevent accidental incursions into the preserve area and limit dangers to the threatened desert tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel. Maintaining high desert tortoise populations within the boundaries of the DTNA will reduce pressure to close existing OHV routes.

The installation of additional signs at Camp C will function to protect riders from accidentally running into newly installed fencing in the area. The safety of the public is of the utmost importance to the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (Committee). Riding safely enhances OHV recreation for all of those involved.

Placing highway signs at critical intersections along the route to the DTNA benefits all of our visitors (50% of which are OHV recreationists). The high rate of OHV riders visiting the DTNA suggests that any improvements we make in and around the preserve will benefit OHV recreation. The new highway signs will provide more obvious direction and increase

the safety of the roads in the vicinity of the DTNA. Lost drivers often become frustrated and are therefore less cautious. Less cautious drivers create a dangerous situation of OHV riders in the vicinity.

The installation of educational panels within the Interpretive Center of the DTNA will benefit all visitors and function to protect the desert tortoise in its natural habitat. Maintaining the pristine habitat of the DTNA reduces pressure to close existing OHV routes.

### **C. Size of the Project**

The size of the project is approximately 39.5 square miles. That is the land area of the existing Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTNA). Several of the signing projects will occur outside of the DTNA. The installation of highway signs will occur just outside of California City at the junction of Highway 58 and California City Boulevard and at the junction of Highway 14 and California City Boulevard. An additional sign will be placed inside California City city limits at the junction of California City Boulevard and Randsburg-Mojave Road.

### **D. Location and description of OHV opportunities**

The area around the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTNA) supports a large amount of OHV recreation for 12 months of the year. Opportunities are provided for three or more OHV types. In addition to OHV opportunity that has been in place for years, a recent route re-opening has increased OHV traffic substantially in the area. In 2002 the Bureau of Land Management closed OHV routes in the Western Rand's because users were not staying on trail. The Center for Biological Diversity sued the BLM for not being able to control the public and the routes were closed. A recent grant written by Ed Waldheim on behalf of Friends of Jawbone allowed for R 5 and R 50 to be reopened by putting a fence on both sides of the trail. This route has been closed for six years and its re-opening adds 15 miles of trails to the public for access to Munsy Road or travel to Randsburg.

Although the route re-opening doesn't have direct impacts at the DTNA, there are many indirect impacts to the area. The increased public access has resulted in increasing OHV traffic in and around California City. There is also a new California City OHV trail from Borax Bill park and route linkage connecting Jawbone, Cal City, Camp "C" and Randsburg via CC10 and CC5 connectors to BLM R5 and R10.

## **2. Rerouting Requirements**

### **Rerouting**

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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**1. Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

Attachments:

[DTPC Project Timeline-SIGNS](#)

**2. Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**

**3 Project-Specific Maps**

Attachments:

[Desert Tortoise Natural Area Location Map](#)

[Rands Mountains Camp C Location](#)

[Camp C Fenceline and Existing Road Network](#)

**4. Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Attachments:

[Project Specific Photos \(1\)-SIGNS](#)

[Project Specific Photos \(2\)-SIGNS](#)

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.  
 Application: Ground Operations-Signs

6/2/2009

|                              |  |   |             |
|------------------------------|--|---|-------------|
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:         |  | Version # _____                                 | APP # _____ |
| <b>APPLICANT NAME :</b>      | Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.   |   |             |
| <b>PROJECT TITLE :</b>       | Ground Operations-Signs  | <b>PROJECT NUMBER<br/>(Division use only) :</b> |             |
| <b>PROJECT TYPE :</b>        | <div style="display: flex; flex-wrap: wrap;"> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Development</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Education &amp; Safety</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Planning</div> <div style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Restoration</div> </div>  |   |             |
| <b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION :</b> | <p>The Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area (DTNA) is 39.5 square miles of prime natural habitat set aside for the desert tortoise, the official California State Reptile. The Mojave population of the desert tortoise (<i>Gopherus agassizii</i>) is listed as threatened, both in the state of California and federally. Within the designated boundary of this preserve lies of prime habitat that historically supported one of the highest tortoise population densities known. The preserve boasts other flora and fauna representative of the intricate Mojave Desert ecosystem, including the threatened Mohave ground Squirrel (<i>Spermophilus mohavensis</i>). In 1980, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Interior, recognized the significance of the DTNA by designating it an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern" and as a "Research Natural Area". The DTNA lies in the northwestern Mojave Desert on the western edge of the Rand Mountains in eastern Kern County. It is 5.5 miles northeast of California City, a hot spot for OHV recreation.</p> <p>The majority of the perimeter of the DTNA was fenced in the 1970s with the cooperation of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee (Committee) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). At the time of fencing, signs were installed to notify the public that the DTNA, although on land managed by the BLM, was closed to all vehicle use, livestock grazing, bicycle use, and reptile collecting. Over the years the signs have become weathered due to the climatic extremes in the Mojave Desert. The Committee seeks funding to purchase and replace old, damaged, or vandalized signs.</p> <p>Since the 1970's new fencing has been installed as additional parcels of land were acquired or donated and then added to the existing DTNA. OHV recreationists heavily used one of these parcels locally known as Camp "C", as a site for camping and riding. At the time of acquisition and fencing, a large network of roads covered the area. The roads still exist inside the fence line and are visible to riders from a distance, although the fence line itself may be difficult to detect. Despite the Committee's best efforts, including signing and flagging, riders are still accidentally crashing into the fence. A minimum of five accidental fence strikes occurred in 2008 although many more likely occurred but were undetected. The Committee seeks funding to purchase additional signs to protect riders from fence collisions in the area of Camp "C".</p> <p>The Committee seeks additional funding to purchase highway signs to direct visitors to the DTNA. Existing signs marking critical turns to California City on Highway 58 are faded beyond recognition or reading. Several comments left on the BLM site register last year expressed frustration regarding the difficulty of find the DTNA based on available signage. Providing adequate direction to the DTNA protects drivers and riders. Well-marked intersections and turns are safer and less distracting to drivers and riders. Efforts to maintain and improve the DTNA are beneficial to all of our visitors, almost 50% of whom arrived on OHVs.</p> <p>The Committee also seeks funds to develop, purchase and install two weather resistant information panels at the DTNA. These panels will include information on proper behaviors when encountering a desert tortoise, the dangers of releasing pets into the wild, and the risks of removing a wild desert tortoise from its natural habitat.</p> |   |             |

| Line Item               | Qty | Rate | UOM | Grant Request | Match | Total |
|-------------------------|-----|------|-----|---------------|-------|-------|
| <b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>  |     |      |     |               |       |       |
| <b>Program Expenses</b> |     |      |     |               |       |       |

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
Agency: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.  
Application: Ground Operations-Signs

6/2/2009

|          | Line Item  | Qty      | Rate     | UOM  | Grant Request    | Match           | Total            |
|----------|--|----------|----------|------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| <b>1</b> | <b>Staff</b>   |          |          |      |                  |                 |                  |
|          | Senior Maintenance Worker<br>Notes : Installation of Closed Area Closed/Restoration Area Signs | 160.000  | 25.000   | HRS  | 0.00             | 4,000.00        | 4,000.00         |
|          | Senior Maintenance Worker<br>Notes : Installation of Highway signs and educational signs       | 120.000  | 25.000   | HRS  | 0.00             | 3,000.00        | 3,000.00         |
|          | <b>Total for Staff</b>   |          |          |      | 0.00             | 7,000.00        | 7,000.00         |
| <b>2</b> | <b>Contracts</b>   |          |          |      |                  |                 |                  |
| <b>3</b> | <b>Materials / Supplies</b>  |          |          |      |                  |                 |                  |
|          | Other-Closed Area/Restoration Area Signs   | 300.000  | 40.000   | MISC | 12,000.00        | 0.00            | 12,000.00        |
|          | Other-Highway directional signs  | 3.000    | 2304.000 | MISC | 6,912.00         | 0.00            | 6,912.00         |
|          | Other-Information Panels   | 2.000    | 750.000  | MISC | 1,500.00         | 0.00            | 1,500.00         |
|          | <b>Total for Materials / Supplies</b>  |          |          |      | 20,412.00        | 0.00            | 20,412.00        |
| <b>4</b> | <b>Equipment Use Expenses</b>  |          |          |      |                  |                 |                  |
| <b>5</b> | <b>Equipment Purchases</b>   |          |          |      |                  |                 |                  |
| <b>6</b> | <b>Others</b>  |          |          |      |                  |                 |                  |
| <b>7</b> | <b>Administrative Costs</b>  |          |          |      |                  |                 |                  |
|          | Administrative Costs-Fuel  | 2000.000 | 0.505    | MI   | 0.00             | 1,010.00        | 1,010.00         |
|          | Administrative Costs-Insurance/Workers C   | 1.000    | 1000.000 | MISC | 1,000.00         | 0.00            | 1,000.00         |
|          | <b>Total for Administrative Costs</b>  |          |          |      | 1,000.00         | 1,010.00        | 2,010.00         |
|          | <b>Total Program Expenses</b>  |          |          |      | 21,412.00        | 8,010.00        | 29,422.00        |
|          | <b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>   |          |          |      | 21,412.00        | 8,010.00        | 29,422.00        |
|          | <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>  |          |          |      | <b>21,412.00</b> | <b>8,010.00</b> | <b>29,422.00</b> |

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009  
 Agency: Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.  
 Application: Ground Operations-Signs

6/2/2009

|                               | Line Item              | Grant Request    | Match           | Total            | Narrative |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------|
| <b>DIRECT EXPENSES</b>        |                        |                  |                 |                  |           |
| <b>Program Expenses</b>       |                        |                  |                 |                  |           |
| 1                             | Staff                  | 0.00             | 7,000.00        | 7,000.00         |           |
| 2                             | Contracts              | 0.00             | 0.00            | 0.00             |           |
| 3                             | Materials / Supplies   | 20,412.00        | 0.00            | 20,412.00        |           |
| 4                             | Equipment Use Expenses | 0.00             | 0.00            | 0.00             |           |
| 5                             | Equipment Purchases    | 0.00             | 0.00            | 0.00             |           |
| 6                             | Others                 | 0.00             | 0.00            | 0.00             |           |
| 7                             | Administrative Costs   | 1,000.00         | 1,010.00        | 2,010.00         |           |
| <b>Total Program Expenses</b> |                        | 21,412.00        | 8,010.00        | 29,422.00        |           |
| <b>TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES</b>  |                        | 21,412.00        | 8,010.00        | 29,422.00        |           |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>     |                        | <b>21,412.00</b> | <b>8,010.00</b> | <b>29,422.00</b> |           |

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**ITEM 1 and ITEM 2**

**ITEM 1**

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No  
(Please select Yes or No)

**ITEM 2**

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☒ Yes ☐ No  
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

**ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands**

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee's [DTPC] application for funding to purchase new signs will have no impact on wetlands or navigable waters.

The impacts of this signing project on sensitive habitats and species are positive and significant. The Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area [DTNA] is 39.5 square miles of prime natural habitat and had one of the finest known populations of the threatened desert tortoise, the official California State reptile. In 1980, the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, designated the Desert Tortoise Natural Area as a "Research Area" and an "Area of Critical Environmental Concern". Although the DTNA was established specifically to protect the desert tortoise there are a variety of other plants and animals that benefit from the prime habitat that is preserved in the name of the desert tortoise. This signing project will not only function to protect the desert tortoise but will also protect the Mohave ground squirrel [threatened] and the burrowing owl [species of special concern]. Additionally more than 200 different kinds of plants occur within the interior of the DTNA and will also be protected by adequate signing.

**ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project**

There are no foreseeable negative cumulative impacts from this project such as increased noise or traffic. Only positive cumulative effects are expected from the implementation of the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee's [DTPC] signing proposal. Signing projects have occurred in the area of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area [DTNA] since the mid-1970s. Previously implemented signing projects at the have served their function well by posting both permitted and prohibited activities within the DTNA. Posting prohibited activities helps protect both the sensitive species and the habitat within the DTNA, but also protects recreationists who may be unaware to the rules and regulations of the area. The achievements of the early signing projects at the DTNA suggest that future signing projects would have the same success. This signing project helps inform individuals that the DTNA is closed to all vehicle use, livestock grazing, bicycle use, and reptile collecting. New signs will help protect new restoration areas and prevent future accidental vehicle-fence collisions in newly fenced areas.

**ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts**

The installation of signs along the boundary of the Desert Tortoise Natural Area, the boundary of the restoration area formerly known as Camp C, at critical highway junctions, and at the Interpretive Center of the Desert Tortoise Natural Area will not have any significant effect on the environment due to steep slopes or highly erosive soils.

The majority of signs will be installed on existing fencing and will have no impacts on the soil. Funds were requested to purchase three signs to be installed at highway junctions to safely direct visitors to the Desert Tortoise Natural Area. One of the three highway signs for which funds were requested would be replacing an existing sign that is mounted on two steel posts that do not need to be replaced at this time. With no need to remove or change the existing steel posts the installation of that particular sign won't cause any soil disturbance. The two remaining highway signs would require two posts per sign to be placed in the soil for the purposes of sign attachment. These signs will be placed on flat, highly compacted surfaces along the sides of highly traveled roadways therefore the installation of these two signs would not contribute to soil erosion in the area. The installation of educational panels within the Interpretive Center of the DTNA will necessitate the installation of two posts on which the interpretive panels will be mounted. Both of these panels will be installed on a flat surface in an area where the soils are not highly erosive.

#### **ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources**

The Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee's application for funding to purchase new signs has no potential for damage to scenic resources within the viewshed of a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway. The work to be funded by this grant would take place entirely within Kern County, California. According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System [www.dot.ca.gov] there are no designated state scenic highways in Kern County. California State Highway 14 and California State Highway 58, along which two signs would be installed, are both designated as Eligible State Scenic Highways but have not yet been designated as state scenic highways.

#### **ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials**

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

#### **ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources**

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

#### **ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts**

The signing project proposed by the Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee does not have the potential to cause indirect significant impacts. The installation of signs will not result in user groups going elsewhere due to the fact that off-highway vehicle [OHV] recreation is prohibited within the boundaries of the Desert Tortoise Research Natural Area [DTNA]. OHV recreationists visit the DTNA to experience the beauty of the prime natural habitat. Rather than causing OHV user groups to go elsewhere, the installation of new signs will protect the inherent values of the DTNA, which are highly valued by visitors to the DTNA who represent the OHV community.



The area around the DTNA already supports a large amount of OHV recreation for 12 months of the year for a variety of OHV types. In addition to OHV opportunity that has been in place for years, a recent route re-opening has increased OHV traffic substantially in the area. In 2002 the Bureau of Land Management closed OHV routes in the Western Rand's. A recent grant written on behalf of the Friends of Jawbone allowed for R 5 and R 50 to be reopened by putting a fence on both sides of the trail. This route has been closed for six years and its re-opening adds 15 miles of trails to the public for access to Munsy Road or travel to Randsburg. Although the route re-opening does not have direct impacts at the DTNA, there are many indirect impacts to the area. The increased public access has resulted in increasing OHV traffic in and around California City. There is also a new California City OHV trail from Borax Bill park and route linkage connecting Jawbone, California City, Camp C and Randsburg via CC10 and CC5 connectors to BLM R5 and R10. Rather than causing significant impacts off-site, the signing project proposed by the DTPC works to reduce off-site impacts by protecting riders from unintentional fence collisions, providing riders with the information they need to recreate safely in and around the DTNA, informing visitors of the laws and regulations of the area, and increasing the safety on the roads in the vicinity of the DTNA, both for sensitive and threatened species and the recreationists themselves. Reducing off-site impacts to wildlife near the DTNA, especially to the threatened desert tortoise and the Mohave ground squirrel, a threatened species, will reduce pressure to close existing OHV routes in the area.

This signing project does not have potential to significantly increase use in the vicinity of the project site. The main purpose of the project is to significantly increase the safety of users in the vicinity of the project site.

**CEQA/NEPA Attachment**

Attachments: [Ridgecrest Resource Area-Wide Maintenance and Surface Restoration EA-NEPA 96-70](#)

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**1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)**

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 3

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 76% or more (10 points)  
☐ 51% - 75% (5 points)  
☒ 26% - 50% (3 points)  
☐ 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

**2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.**

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)  
☐ Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)  
☒ Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)  
☒ Potential trespass (2 points)  
☐ Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

A failure to properly sign all fencing along the current boundary of the DTNA and recently fenced properties in the eastern expansion area of the DTNA could result in intentional and unintentional trespass. Increased instances of trespass threaten legal, existing riding routes and opportunities for responsible OHV recreation. Maintaining properly signed boundaries protects the threatened desert tortoise and the threatened Mohave ground squirrel.

**3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.**

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 4

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)  
☐ Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)  
☒ Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)  
☒ Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)  
☐ Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project will provide traffic control by directing visitors safely to the Desert Tortoise Natural Area. Additional signing will make newly installed fencing more obvious to OHV riders and protect them from unintentional fence collisions. Five of these unintentional collisions have occurred in 2008. Signs will also mark closed areas to protect on-going restoration projects. All newly installed signs will benefit the OHV community by informing them of regulations and restrictions in the area and promote responsible recreation in and around California City. Responsible recreation protects existing, designated routes and maintains multi-use routes. Educational signage benefits all visitors to the DTNA, approximately 50% of which are OHV recreationists.

**4. Public Input - Q 4.**

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
- ☒ Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
- ☐ Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The Committee hosted our Annual Banquet and Meeting in Lancaster, California on 1/24/2009. Interested members of the general public, members from several chapters of the California Turtle and Tortoise Club, a Los Angeles County Fish & Game Commissioner, and representatives from the BLM Ridgecrest Field Office attended the meeting. Our intention to apply for the OHV grant opportunity was announced as were the types of projects for which we were requesting funds. Attendees were given the opportunity to comment on the projects and give suggestions. Conference calls were held with interested parties and the primary topic of discussion involved the types and numbers of signs needed and the projected location of the signs.

**5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.**

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 2

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- ☐ 4 or more (4 points)
- ☒ 2 to 3 (2 points)
- ☐ 1 (1 point)
- ☐ None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

Bureau of Land Management (Ridgecrest Field Office), Lancaster High School

**6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.**

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- ☒ Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
- ☐ Protecting water quality (1 point)
- ☐ Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
- ☒ Protecting special-status species (1 point)
- ☐ Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
- ☐ Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
- ☐ Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)
- ☐ Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Replacing old signs and installing new signs will help to identify and maintain the DTNAs boundary, which was originally constructed to prevent unauthorized trespass. New signs will be installed on recently fenced areas that protect on-going restoration projects. Informed riders obeying the area's regulations will prevent future OHV riding restrictions. This project will protect two threatened species, the desert tortoise and the threatened Mohave ground squirrel. Informational signs will protect desert tortoises from being release into the wild, collected from the wilds, or harassed. Visitors to the DTNA (approximately 50% of which are OHV recreationists) will also be informed how to legally adopt a desert tortoise. This information protects wild tortoise populations.

**7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.**

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 1

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- ☐ Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
- ☒ Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)

- ☐ Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
- ☐ Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point)

**8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.**

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 0

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

☒ No (No points)

☐ Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

**9. Motorized Access - Q 9.**

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

☐ Camping

☒ Birding

☒ Hiking

☐ Equestrian trails

☐ Fishing

☐ Rock Climbing

☒ Other (Specify) [Wildflower Identification]